Choral Eucharist
3rd December 2023 – 10.30
First Sunday of Advent

President
The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane
_Interim Dean_

Preacher
The Revd Canon Dr David Primrose
_Canon Treasurer_

Lichfield Cathedral is called to live and proclaim the transforming love of God. Through the fullness of its life in the Spirit, it seeks to be a sign of the friendship and freedom that God in Jesus Christ has given the whole world to enjoy.
ALL ARE WELCOME ... THIS IS YOUR CATHEDRAL....

Welcome to this service whether you are worshipping in the Cathedral or via YouTube at home.

Welcome to your Cathedral. If you're here with small children, we’re very glad to see you! It’s good to have you with us and joining in the worship. If you’d like one, there are activity bags with simple activities for children and a sheet with activities that follow the readings you’ll hear in the service today - please ask the stewards who welcomed you for one. If you, or your child, needs some time out, you can use St Stephen’s Chapel - straight ahead and to the left of the large hanging cross, near the large font. It has green walls and two entrances. There you’ll find there some stories, and simple craft activities. But please come back when you want! Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me.’

To our worshippers here without children: children are a sign that the Body of Christ is growing, and a reminder that God is always doing a new thing. Please greet parents, carers and children with a smile.

Safety
Please always follow any directions given in how we need to move around the Cathedral. In the unlikely event of an emergency, please remain quiet and respond calmly and promptly to the directions of the Vergers.

Spiritual Communion
While some cannot, for a number of reasons, come to Church to receive their communion in person we will continue to incorporate the Spiritual Communion within our worship at the point of the distribution.

Receiving Communion
People will be able to choose whether they wish or not to receive their Holy Communion in the form of wine as well as bread. If you take the chalice, please help the person giving the chalice by guiding the cup to your lips. People are also reminded that we do not allow intinction (dipping the bread into the wine) at the Cathedral. Please follow the instructions given by the Stewards who will direct you to a communion station. Gluten-free bread will be available at each station.

Posture
The order of service indicates whether to sit or stand, however please feel free to adopt the posture that you feel most comfortable with.
Offerings
Your gifts are vital in sustaining our mission and worship. A collection will be taken by the Stewards during the offertory hymn. Please do Gift Aid your donation if you are a UK taxpayer by completing the required details on the envelopes provided. There are electronic giving points where you can tap a debit or credit card; if you need assistance with these devices please do ask a steward or verger. For those worshipping at home, you can text SPIRES to 70191 to give £10, or visit www.lichfield-cathedral.org/donate.

Refreshments
At the end of the service refreshments are available in the North Transept. We do hope that you will join us for a time of fellowship together.

Photography and Livestreaming
Whilst we ask that members of the congregation do not take photographs or video of our worship, please note that at some of our services our Cathedral volunteer photographers will be taking photographs. We are also livestreaming to Facebook or YouTube many of our services. Whilst we do our best to not film the congregation for the livestream, please do let us know if this is a particular issue for you and we will assist by letting you know where you can sit so that you do not appear on screen.

Music
Our service is sung today by the Cathedral Choir conducted by the Director of Music, Ben Lamb. The organ is played by the Assistant Director of Music, Martyn Rawles. The setting for the Eucharist is the Mass for Three Voices, by William Byrd (c.1540-1623).

Preparation before the Service
The time before the service you are invited to keep as a period of quiet preparation for worship. You might find the following prayer useful:

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin
to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please join in whatever is printed in bold type.
THE GATHERING

Stand as the choir and sacred ministers assemble in the Crossing around the Advent Candles.

ADVENT PROSE

The refrain is first sung by the Choir, then repeated by the people:

\[
\text{Drop down, ye heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.}
\]

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever:
Thy holy cities are a wilderness,
Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee.

Drop down...

The President offers words of welcome

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE, THE LIGHT OF HOPE

O come, O come, Emmanuel: Come, Lord Jesus.

The President invites a child to light the first Advent candle

We dare to light a light of hope,
despite the darkness of our world.
In the face of cruelty and suffering,
of oppression and inequality, we dare to hope!

In a world that sometimes seems hopeless:
We dare to hope!
With the patriarchs of old:
We dare to hope!
We light a candle in the darkness:
We dare to hope!

O come, O come, Emmanuel: Come, Lord Jesus.
INTROIT HYMN 32  
Veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear: 
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave: Rejoice! ...

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight: Rejoice! ...

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery: Rejoice! ...

O come, O come, thou Lord of Might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height, in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe: Rejoice! ...

Latin Advent Antiphons. tr. J M Neale (1818-1866)

Remain standing

THE GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you all. And also with you.
Please sit as the President offers further words of welcome and then says,

God calls, his call is to each one of us, it is personal and universal, an invitation to all humanity to meet him here.
God calls us to meet him here in the feast prepared by his Son.
God calls, his call is to each one of us.
His call is both personal and universal.

**THE RITE OF PENITENCE**

‘The axe is laid at the root of the trees; every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down.’
But confident in God’s mercy we confess our sins. cf Matthew 3.10

Most merciful God, **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**, 
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. 
We have not loved you with our whole heart. 
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. 
In your mercy forgive what we have been, 
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

**KYRIE ELEISON (choir)**

*Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.*

**ABSOLUTION**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Stand*
THE COLLECT

Let us pray:
Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING  Isaiah 64.1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the
mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles
brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known
to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down,
the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has
heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who
works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we
transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our
righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our
iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your
name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from
us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your
people.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.
A short period of silence is kept.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Stand as the choir sings Alleluia which all repeat*

![Music notation for Alleluia]

*Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!*

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

*cf Isaiah 40.3–5*

*All sing Alleluia again*

*Turn towards the reading of the Gospel in the middle of the Nave.*

**Gospel Reading**  
Mark 13.24-end

![Music notation]

*The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.*

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Je-sus Christ according to Mark.*

*Glo-ry to you, O Lord.*

Jesus said, ‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."
'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

A fanfare is sounded to honour the reading of the Gospel.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

NICENE CREED, sung to the setting by John Merbecke

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory
to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets.
And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
And we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sit

Let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.

The prayers conclude:

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

Stand

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Deacon of the Gospel says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange the peace with their neighbour.
PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

A collection is taken to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. Please give as generously as you are able and, if you are a UK taxpayer, use the Gift Aid envelopes provided.

OFFERTORY HYMN 31 Helmsley

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and John Cennick (1718-1755)

Remain standing

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

As this bread was scattered and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your Kingdom.
Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.
Glory to you, O God, for ever.
**The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh, he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world to open for us the way of salvation. Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory, for ever praising you and saying:

**Sanctus and Benedictus (choir)**

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,*
*heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.*
*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender mercy, gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.
Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, 
and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, 
we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, 
according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ’s holy institution, 
in remembrance of his death and passion, 
may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, 
took bread and gave you thanks; 
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: 
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; 
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper 
he took the cup and gave you thanks; 
he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; 
this is my blood of the new covenant, 
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. 
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father, 
in remembrance of the precious death and passion, 
the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension 
of your dear Son Jesus Christ, 
we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death, and through faith in his blood, 
we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins 
and all other benefits of his passion. 
Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, 
to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this 
the duty and service that we owe.
Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences, and fill us all who share in this holy communion with your grace and heavenly blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sit

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and so we have the courage to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

**Giving of Communion**

God’s holy gifts for God’s holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

*The President receives Holy Communion and then leads the Spiritual Communion for those who are prevented from receiving their communion, and worshipping with us from home. We invite those in the Cathedral to pray quietly for them as the President leads them in prayer.*
SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (for those worshipping online)

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, 
for all the benefits you have given me, 
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. 
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, 
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. 
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, 
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, 
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Those of any Christian denomination who are accustomed to receiving Holy Communion in their own churches are invited to do so here. Please follow the directions given by the Stewards who will indicate which communion station you should go to. If you do not normally receive communion, please do come forward to receive a prayer of blessing. Gluten free hosts are available at each station for those who require them.

AGNUS DEI (choir)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, 
have mercy on us; grant us peace.

MOTET  Veni, Domine – Juan Esquivel (c.1560-1625)

Veni Domine, et noli tardare.
Veni visitare nos in pace, ut laetemur coram te corde perfecto.

Come, Lord, and do not delay.
Come visit us in peace, that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sit

Let us pray:

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NOTICES
Stand

HYMN 26 Merton

1. Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding; ‘Christ is nigh,’ it seems to say; ‘cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day.’

2. Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earth-bound soul arise; Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven; let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven;

4. That when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear, with his mercy he may shield us, and with words of love draw near.

5. Honour, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son, with the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run.

Latin tr. Edward Caswall 1814-1878

Remain standing

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

The Deacon of the Gospel says


May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. Amen.

Remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

Please do stay for refreshments, these are served in the North Transept.